

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

8 FEBRUARY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Iraq

a. The [] revolt against Qasim began this morning.

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b. It is being led by Army officers, many of them members of the Baath party. Qasim virtually jarred the conspirators into action by undertaking within the past few days to purge army ranks of officers suspected of opposing him and by arresting a number of Baath party leaders.

c. Baghdad radio is in the hands of the insurrectionists. It claims that Qasim has been killed.

(A background summary on the revolt is included separately.)

2. Venezuela

a. The Venezuelan Communist party, []

[] decided last month to throw all of its capabilities for armed action behind the attempt to topple Betancourt.

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b. The party has set up a unified command over its guerrilla and terrorist operations within a cover organization which calls itself the Armed Forces of National Liberation.

(Cont'd)

c. The government may, however, have already succeeded in throwing sand into the newly created subversive machinery. Following yesterday's terrorist raid on the US Chamber of Commerce office in Caracas, the police broke into National Liberation headquarters and captured quantities of arms, a membership list, and documents relating to the Communist scheme of action.

3. Cuba-
Latin America

a. The head of Brazil's orthodox Communists is planning a trip to Moscow, Prague and thence to Cuba, chiefly to protest that the Cubans and Communist Chinese have been bypassing the regular organization in dealing with revolutionary groups in Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America.

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b. The Brazilian Communist head, Luiz Carlos Prestes, intends to make the case that the militant irregulars supported by Castro, besides undercutting the orthodox Communists, are stirring alarm in Latin America and thus playing into the hands of the US.

(Cont'd)

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4.

Cuba

a. The KHIMIK ZHELENSKY be-
lieved to be carrying a military
cargo, reached Cuban waters yester-
day.

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5. Indonesia

a. U Thant's special represent-
ative in Indonesia asserts that the
Indonesians have agreed to drop their
demand that the transfer of West New
Guinea to them take place before 1
May, as scheduled.

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b. The Indonesians are con-
tinuing, however, their inflammatory
propaganda against Malaysia. The
official Indonesain news agency de-
clared this morning that 10,000
tribesmen from Indonesian Borneo
will enter North Borneo to join the
rebel struggle against the British.

6. West Germany

a. Reviewing yesterday's Bundestag debate on the Franco-German treaty, the US Embassy in Bonn discerns a strong consensus for the rapprochement with France. What doubts there are stem from the desire to prevent relations with France from hindering progress toward European unity or disturbing US-German relations.

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b. It was also apparent that Adenauer's critics failed to mount an effective attack in the debate. Erhard's performance is falling conspicuously short of his boldly professed intentions.

NOTES

A. Peru Constitutional guarantees have been restored after a month's suspension and the political parties are beginning to make preparations for the election promised for late spring. [REDACTED]

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C. Chile The Chilean government has officially informed our Embassy that it is cancelling its barter deal with Cuba which would have bought Cuban sugar in return for Chilean agricultural products. The Embassy observed that President Alessandri has been giving a display of "constructive leadership" since his Washington visit. [REDACTED]

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D. Paraguay [REDACTED]
Paraguayan exiles in Argentina have been concentrating at several points along the border between the two countries and may attempt armed attack in order to disrupt Sunday's Paraguayan elections.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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8 February 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Background on Revolt in Iraq

1. The Baath was formed in Syria in 1954 by Michel Aflaq and Akram al-Hawrani. It is "socialistic," pan-Arab, anti-West, anti-Communist, and the most widely organized political party in the Arab world today. However, it is rent with dissension and divided into pro- and anti-Nasir factions. In Iraq, the party pays lip service to Nasir's pan-Arabism, but it has no wish to see Iraq's identity submerged in a Nasir-controlled state. While anti-Communist, the Baath could not be expected to reverse present policy toward Moscow in such fields as arms procurement and trade. However, the Baathists would favor a more neutral policy between the Soviet Bloc and the West than has Qasim.

2. Several of the key leaders of the present revolutionary group have been identified as Baathist army officers. [REDACTED]

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3. The move against Qasim was sparked by a number of factors. Qasim has attempted persistently to crush the Baath. (The Baath in October 1959 nearly succeeded in killing him and he was hospitalized for two months.) His strongly pro-Communist policies, his unsuccessful 20-month old campaign against the Kurds, his bitter feud with Nasir, and the loss of face caused Iraq by his insane antics were further incentives to revolt.

4. The USSR has suffered a setback in Iraq. There is little doubt that the new revolutionary regime will do its best to crush the Communists for good. A blood bath is likely. Street fighting between Communists and anti-Communists is going on in Baghdad now.

5. The Arab World: Nasir will be given a great boost by the success of the coup--he will do

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his best to capitalize on this. Instability is likely to increase in Syria and Jordan as pro-Nasir elements are heartened. An accommodation with the rebellious Kurds in Iraq will be attempted and probably also a reconciliation with Kuwait.

6. If the revolution succeeds, however, the Baath will not, at least at the outset, be completely dominant. The immediate outgrowth is likely to be a provisional coalition government bringing together a variety of anti-Communist nationalist elements.

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